



UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Divine Mercy School Council Meeting

February 7, 2022 6.35 pm | Meeting called to order by Mary Andrews

In Attendance

Daniela Letterio	Pam Leermakers	Regrets: Paula Mendonca Guests: Edward Cai Matthew Thomas
Elaine Dantas	Pearl Mofunanya	
Janneke van der Zee	Sandra Shehadeh	
Lucille Shenouda	Susan Wilson	
Johnson Lai	Tanya Brancalion	
Karen Chan	Tashani Parker	
Lisa Bitonti-Bengert	Vivian Correa-Pinto	
Mary Andrews	Angela Trewartha	
Mera Guindy	Adriana Paniconi	

Opening Prayer/Introductions

M. Andrews welcomed everyone, led introductions, opening prayer and read the Land Acknowledgment. Special welcome to Mr. Thomas and Mr. Cai by Ms. Wilson.

Approval CSC Meeting Minutes December 13, 2021

To be reviewed at the next meeting.

Updates by DPCDSB Planning and Operations and Environmental Services

Mr. Thomas provided an update with regards to questions around school health and safety protocols in particular ventilation. Our schools are safe! Substantial investments have been made in air quality: \$3.4 million dollars for ventilation upgrades, \$24 million for different ventilation projects including HEPA filters. What is being done by the Board to maintain current ventilation requirements? Portable HEPA filters available in every classrooms at DM, upgraded filters in current ventilation systems, general flushing of the system. Mr. Cai pointed out that the school’s boiler was replaced last year. AC is provided to all classrooms, central air in the admin rooms, 29 HEPA filter units to all classrooms. Filters are being replaced every 6 to 9 months and the HEPA filers are operational daily from 6 am to 6 pm. A consultant has been hired to check air quality. School Council members were given the opportunity to ask any questions which were addressed by Mr. Thomas and Mr. Cai. Future measures will be updated in DM newsletter.

Chair’s Report

Presented by M. Andrews. No updates on the DEI statement. S. Wilson will provide more details. Fundraising committee to review initiatives. No update on fundraising guidelines. Vivian and Janneke volunteered to be part of the fundraising committee.

Principal's Update

Presented by S. Wilson.

- Our February newsletter recently was sent out to our families
- We highlighted some upcoming events;

Black History Month

- Divine Mercy is celebrating Black History this month. Various events will take place to promote, celebrate, and honour Black History.
- The library will be displaying books about Black History.
- Daily announcements that include information and trivia
- Students from Kindergarten to grade 3 will watch an assembly (prerecorded) given by Motivational Speaker Saidat.
- Students in grades 4-8 will have the opportunity to watch a different BHM presentation/interview each day. These lessons are focused on making connections. "Making Connections to Black Excellence"-20
- Day Journey through Black History
- <http://saidat.ca/>
- For a preview of Saidat's 20 day Journey please click the link below
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rskaxvFdtbq>
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Valentine Spirit Week

Valentine Spirit Week will begin on February 14th 2022.

We will also be having a Terra Cotta cookie fundraiser for ShareLife, \$2.50 per cookie, net profits go to ShareLife,

Monday February 14th Wear Valentine Colours and/or accessories all week.

Tuesday February 15th Make a craft or a card for a friend.

Wednesday February 16th Go on a nature walk and look for things that bring your heart Joy.

Thursday February 17th Show some love for your favourite sports team. Wear your favourite jersey or team colours.

Family Day is on Monday February 21, 2022

Extended French Information and Registration

Applications will be available online through the DPCDSB Extended French Webpage. Applications will open Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. The application submission deadline is Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

Confirmation Chats with at Merciful Redeemer. Jane will be meeting with students for their second chat from **February 7th to March 1st**. If your child has not already booked a chat please email Jane directly.
jane@mercifulredeemer.org

Holy Communion Parent Meeting #2 Will be held on **Thursday, February 10th, 2022 at 7:00pm**

Covid 19- Health Pass- self screening & signature to attend school- reminder

Hybrid Learning ends Feb. 22, all students return in person, no hybrid remote learning except if quarantining due to Covid and it has been reported to school

Covid positive reporting is no longer a requirement of families, optional

Recess /Lunch Routines- S. Wilson provided updates regarding schedules for recess and lunches.

Reporting to Parents

Report Cards- go home week of Feb. 14, ICT will be emailing to students accounts

Families will receive invites from Teachers to participate in interview night / day. Virtually or phone call.

Letters will be going home this week via your child's teacher to book times/date

Thursday February 17 evening

Friday Feb. 18- Feb. 18 is a PA Day

Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle – Year in Review

Ms. Brancalion provided an overview of the Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle – Year in Review. (Please see [attached link](#) for details). Highlights included:

- Our MYSP is built on our mission vision and our values and all our goals are highlighted in our yearly catholic board improvement learning cycle
- One big change, (and we continue to build in this area) is that we have tried to become and encourage our schools to become more explicit in the articulation of our goals, especially in the area of equity.
- We do not have EQAO data as you know but we do have other data sources that we collect.
- **Believe:** Faith we did well increase in understanding a little decrease in sacraments
- **Excel:** Reading levels in primary not good and we have a lot of work to do with these gaps.
- **Respect:** we continue to see Disproportionalities of achievement in areas that we already know about. We do continuously work in collaboration with equity team to discuss how we can address these.
- **Thrive:** school climate we continue to see social engagement and intellectual engagement were areas that did not do well.
- **Trust:** Covid related surveys to support us in this data. The math and literacy attitudes and practices Survey showed that there were areas of high satisfaction in terms of online safety and communicating with teachers and that was a huge increase.

Due to time constraints questions about this presentation can be send to Ms. Andrews and they will be addressed at our next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Presented by A. Trewartha. No update and no income to report.

Teacher/Non-Teacher Report

Presented by Ms. Letterio. Ms. Letterio shared the teachers' wish list:

- Television for gymnasium for fitness and other gym curriculum
- Scientist in the School
- STEM Workshops
- Indoor recess games, crosswords, word searches
- Money for crafts
- J'ai lis (French Reading Program)

- 15 Indoor Basketballs and 15 Indoor Volleyball (value is \$750.00)
- Math Manipulatives (sorting materials and wooden geometric blocks).
- DM has received \$4000 for an outdoor grant; 10% approved for the outdoor classroom (need confirmation that the total amount can be used)

Black History Month activities was presented by Ms. Letterio. She further discussed the many activities that teachers had planned and resources that staff have access to, including Saidat's 20 days. Teachers know their students best and will choose activities that best match their age/understanding. Ms. Parker asked if the presentation was mandatory. Ms. Brancalion stated "no" however all classrooms were provided access to the links and resources, and an opportunity to view as a whole school was offered on the Friday.

OAPCE Report

Presented by P. Mofunanya. Updates to recent webinars and articles to share with parents include:

1. [Equity, Diversity and Inclusive Education – Michelle Coutinho](#)
2. [The Power of Parents](#) - Annalisa Crudo-Perri
3. [Paul Davis' Tips for Virtual Learning](#)
4. [Why Digital Portfolio Matters](#) - Anthony Perrotta
 - a) [Create, Curate and Connect](#)
 - b) [BrightSpace by D2L](#)
 - c) [Google Extensions](#)
5. Youth Hack: Calling all schools and students! On March 8th, Finastra will be launching their Youth Hack, which will run until April 10th. We are looking for students/schools (aged between 10 and 18 years old) to join the hack. This is an excellent opportunity for students all around the world to:
 - a) Work with the largest, pure-play, fintech in the world – that's Finastra.
 - b) Collaborate to innovate, with the goal of solving real-world problems, and
 - c) Get insight into and grow knowledge of financial, environmental, and social issues.

Individuals can either work on their own or opt to be entered into a team. Entrants will need to commit six hours to the hack, which can be at any point between March 8th and April 10th. This competition is inclusive of mentoring support. Check [last year's submissions](#) for inspiration!

Do you like to get involved or know someone who'd like to get involved? Sign them up now and we will get in touch with them, sharing a link to the Youth Hack site, where they can find more information about the hack.

- a) Schools/organizations register your interest [here](#)
- b) Young people aged 10-18 register their interest [here](#)

Parish Report

Presented by E. Dantas. Three updates to share: confession and first communion will be virtual. Feedback to the Synod on Synodality can be found at [here](#).

The Synod on Synodality: This is a two year global process of listening to the faithful.

1. The synodal process began in October 2021 and will conclude in October 2023.
2. There are three main phases or stages: • Diocesan phase: October 2021 – August 2022; whereby parishioners are asked to share feedback
3. The Continental phase: August 2022 – March 2023; and the Universal Church phase: October 2023: General Assembly of Bishops in Rome
 - In a synod, bishops from around the world are called by the Pope to come together to pray, reflect, and discuss important issues for the Church. It is a process of listening to the Holy Spirit guiding the Church. A synod typically concludes with a formal statement that gives guidance and direction for the entire Church
 - With the Synod on Synodality, Pope Francis is asking every Catholic to help discern what the Holy Spirit is telling us at this moment as the Church enters its third millennium.

- The first phase will last through the first half of 2022 and will see the world's faithful sharing their thoughts and experiences at a diocesan level.
 - a. The diocesan-level responses will be collected and summarized. The bishops of Canada will meet to discuss what they heard in their respective dioceses, followed by larger multinational meetings and, ultimately, culminating in a synod of bishops in the Vatican in 2023.
- 4. The purpose of the Synod is “intended to inspire people to dream about the church we are called to be, to make people’s hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to create new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.

Questions and closing

March 7th meeting to discuss fundraising.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 8.32 p.m. and was passed unanimously.

Amendments (confirmed at the March 28, 2022 meeting)

In the *Updates by DPCDSB Planning and Operations and Environmental Services* section: it is noted above that “AC is provided to all classrooms” – A. Trewartha, M. Andrews, and T. Parker all confirmed that S. Wilson clarified during the Feb 7 meeting that there is only partial AC in the school, and that there are portable units available.

The link to the Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle – Year in Review added to that section.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10FcPD4RDmC6E-dikUeJe7aZB9z6ppWlQf0Dri4RZloQ/edit#slide=id.g1123cd60252_0_33